

**Testimony**  
**Re: House Bill 4563**  
**June 14, 2007**  
**House New Economy Committee**  
**by**  
**Sarah Hubbard, Vice President, Government Relations**  
**Detroit Regional Chamber**

Chairman and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony before you today. My name is Sarah Hubbard and I'm the Vice President of Government Relations with the Detroit Regional Chamber, a membership organization representing over 23,000 businesses in Southeast Michigan.

The idea to coordinate multiple functions of government for increased efficiency focused on outcomes rather than function is good in concept. Other metro areas and states have public private partnerships to foster trade and economic development - but typically carry a communication function as opposed to a regulatory function, which is the focus of this particular bill. Further this bill adds an additional layer of government that simply compounds the current trade and border crossing process instead of streamlining it.

In particular, we have several concerns as listed below:

1. HB 4563 adds an additional layer of bureaucracy without any required or implied expertise in international trade, homeland security, economic development or infrastructure planning.
2. Requires open-ended regulatory functions that don't necessarily coordinate with trade development or border maintenance.
3. Grants additional powers to the state through the new authority to disable ports of entry which could halt commerce and have severe negative economic impacts to Michigan business.
4. Aforementioned authority power could violate interstate commerce clause.
5. The economic development function purported in this bill can already be fostered through the MEDC or through local DDAs.

We look forward to working with the sponsor of the bill to resolve our concerns and find a productive way to bring greater focus to the economic development opportunities related to our international border crossings.

I'd be happy to answer questions at this time.

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